

agencies. Our governor, Governor Carcieri, has provided outstanding leadership throughout this tragedy and shown extraordinary sensitivity to the families involved, and I have personally heard from many of them how much they appreciate his efforts. Lieutenant Governor Charles Fogarty and Major General Reginald Centracchio, as cochair of the Management Advisory Council, have also played a crucial role in this crisis, and the Rhode Island Emergency Management Agency has impressively and effectively coordinated a myriad of State and local activities.

I would also like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. PATRICK KENNEDY), for his assistance, his friendship, and his support over the past several days, and Rhode Island's senior Senator, JACK REED, and Senator LINCOLN CHAFFEE for their tremendous efforts and leadership.

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Finally, I want to express my great appreciation for the assistance of several Federal agencies, including FEMA, Social Security, the Small Business Administration, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms. Their involvement has been critical, and I look forward to working with them further in the days and weeks to come.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, allow me to offer these final thoughts.

For those that have lost their lives, we can only take comfort that they are now in a better place. For those that fight hour to hour, we pray for their recovery. For the families and friends who have lost loved ones, we offer our shoulders to lean on in their time of need. For all Rhode Islanders and our fellow citizens across the country, it is our time to provide strength, comfort, and assistance to those who need it, and do whatever it takes to ensure that such a tragedy never befalls any community such as this again.

IN SUPPORT OF THE EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEAUPREZ). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, food is one of life's greatest pleasures. Food is also one of life's greatest necessities. Yet, for many, food is an enemy and the act of eating is torture.

An estimated 5 million to 10 million Americans suffer from eating-related diseases, including anorexia, bulimia, and binge-eating disorders. As many as 50,000 of those affected will die as a direct result of these disorders.

Young women are the most common victims of these deadly diseases, but a significant number of males also expe-

rience eating-related disorders. We are all aware of the medical complications that result from anorexia and bulimia: malnutrition, liver damage, gum erosion, and even death. However, an often-overlooked consequence of eating disorders is the negative impact they have on a child's educational achievement. Students with eating disorders often see their school performance decline due to lapses in concentration, loss of self-esteem, depression, and engaging in self-destructive behaviors.

Listen to how one young woman in our district describes the destruction done to her life by an eating disorder: "I am a 16-year-old with anorexia. Having this disease has been the most horrible experience of my life. It completely takes control of your life. It breaks up your family, friends, and your actual thinking decisions. I have had this disorder for over a year and a half. Over that year and a half I have been slowly killing myself."

Despite the social and physical devastation that these diseases inflict on young people such as this girl, very few States or school districts have adequate programs or services to help children suffering from weight-related disorders. It is not that educators or parents do not realize the problems caused by bulimia or binge-eating or are unable to identify affected students; in many cases, they either do not know how to respond to the problem or are without the resources to help educate our youth about the dangers of eating disorders.

It is for this reason that I am introducing the Eating Disorders Awareness, Prevention and Education Act of 2003. This legislation has three parts which together are designed to raise awareness nationally of the problems caused by eating disorders, and to expand opportunities for parents and educators to address them at the school level. This last goal is particularly important as 86 percent of the affected individuals develop their eating disorders before the age 20.

Here is a quick summary of what the Eating Disorders Awareness, Prevention and Education Act will do:

First, the legislation provides States and local school districts with the option of using title V funds to set up eating disorder prevention, awareness and education programs. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, title V funds can be used for nine specific activities to improve the academic outcome of students. This legislation would make eating disorders awareness, education and prevention the tenth allowable use.

Because this legislation expands what States and school districts can do with funds they already receive, it allows us to help vulnerable students without increasing the Federal Government's involvement in local education matters or creating a new Federal program.

The second major provision of this bill ties in with the first. It requires the National Center for Education Sta-

tistics at the Department of Education and the National Center for Health Statistics at the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a joint study and report to Congress on the impact eating disorders have on educational advancement and achievement.

The study will evaluate the extent to which students with eating disorders are more likely to miss school, have delayed rates of development, or reduce cognitive skills. The study will also outline current State and local programs to educate youth about the dangers of eating disorders, as well as evaluate the value of such programs.

The third and final piece of this legislation calls for the Department of Education and Health and Human Services to carry out a national eating disorders public awareness campaign. This campaign will be similar to the antidrug campaign now being run by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Mr. Speaker, there is no easy solution to the problem of eating disorders. They present a serious threat to the health and educational advancement of our Nation's children. They must be addressed.

The Eating Disorders Awareness, Prevention and Education Act gives States, local school districts, and parents the tools needed to address this problem at its root: in schools and classrooms across America. At the same time, it continues the principle of local control of education, makes good use of limited Federal resources, and increases educational opportunities for this group of at-risk children.

Let me close by quoting another young woman from my district struggling with an eating disorder. After describing her tragic battle with anorexia, she closed her letter by saying this: "I really hope that you now realize how important it is to have some awareness and programs in schools about eating disorders."

I do understand, Mr. Speaker, and hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this much needed legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. STRICKLAND addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS 108TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, the Committee on International Relations has adopted written rules governing its procedure. Pursuant to Rule XI, clause 2, I am hereby submitting them for publication in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.